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example, of "rectangle" or "gravitation." We wonder in fact what it does mean when we are told that the Japanese, most aggressive of peoples, nationally and individually are "lacking in the sense of self." The practices or race qualities which the astronomer, in his habit of sweeping generalization, attempts to submit to this one explanation, spring doubtless from many causes, mostly unexplored by our present knowledge.

If there is, indeed, a law of senile decay for nations, it is scarcely exemplified in China; the oldest of nations is in these weeks the most youthful. If the mythological creations of the Orientals are "feared, not loved," so were those of our own ancestors. Did not even Martin Luther, for instance, fill the very air with malicious devils, which buffeted him in a storm, or disturbed him in his work by malicious noises? The best peoples have copied much. It is too soon, perhaps in some fields too late, to decide that the Japanese will do no more. As to this whole question of a special creation of different races, a somewhat intimate acquaintance with the Soul of the Far East as represented by a large number of Chinese young men, has impressed me, as it has other teachers, with the essential similarity of their minds, under similar training, to our own. Men of Chinese families, born and reared in America, are young Americans in their tastes and manners.

"The Obvious Orient" is an account, well worth reading, of things seen by a traveler, moving rapidly but well qualified to observe. He commends, for the most part, our rule of the Philippines, defends the Japanese against the charge of commercial dishonesty, describes with admiration the "Japanese system" of education and government, makes some guesses at the future of the various Oriental nations described, and denies that the Japanese military power is a menace to the United States. The book is much superior to most of the recent somewhat abundant writing on that quarter of the globe.

A. P. WINSTON.

College of Finance, Peking, China.

Reed, A. Z. The Territorial Basis of Government under the State Constitutions. Pp. 250. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1911.

At a time when public attention seems focused, perhaps to an excessive degree, upon the machinery and functions of national governments and upon general issues, national or international in scope, it is particularly valuable to read such a treatise as this excellent volume of the Columbia University Studies in Political Science, and to remember that our political system, with its rules of suffrage and representation, rests essentially on the basis of local government, and that the laws that chiefly affect the great majority of citizens are created by commonwealth legislatures, chosen from local districts.

After a brief historical chapter on political subdivisions during the colonial period, the author treats at length the constitutional provisions in American commonwealths determining the makeup of the county, of urban districts, and of districts for special administrative purposes. On this basis the systems of representation in the upper and lower houses of the common-

wealth legislatures, and the methods of reapportioning the districts of representation are worked out.

While, in the main, the author limits himself to an impartial statement of facts, the treatment of the mass of material being necessarily technical, in a brief concluding chapter he permits himself to make several broad generalizations and statements of opinion. He considers the chief weaknesses in our system of political subdivisions to be their complexity, the manner in which they discriminate against urban centers, and the political impotency of the county, and he suggests as one remedy the change from a centralized commonwealth government to a system of broad local charters for rural and urban territory alike.

RAYMOND GARFIELD GETTELL.

Trinity College.

Saleeby, C. W. Woman and Womanhood. Pp. 398. Price, \$2.50. New York: Mitchell Kennerley, 1911.

Woman is the storm center of a great mass of modern discussion to which the author of the present volume has contributed not a little. The book contains a series of interesting chapters which deal with such topics as Determination of Sex, Mendelism and Womanhood, The Higher Education of Woman, Education for Motherhood, On Choosing a Husband, and the like. The viewpoint held consistently throughout places woman at the center of the biologic and social world.

Mr. Saleeby always writes as a biologist, and unfortunately he frequently applies biologic analogies which are scarcely sound from a social standpoint. For example, his attempt to establish a definite relation between the cells of a biologic organism and members of a human society, is neither original nor successful. In discussing the higher education of woman, the author shows a much less fundamental grasp of the problem than is possessed by men like G. Stanley Hall. Apparently he has never passed the stage of believing that the higher education of women should consist in advanced domestic science courses.

On the whole, however, the theories advanced in the book are biologically and socially sound. The chief criticism which must be launched against it is a criticism of unscholariness in statement and presentation. For example, on page 179, the author writes, "We know by observation amongst ourselves that hardness and tenderness are to be found running through families—are things which are transmissible." This is cited as an illustration of a parental instinct which is inherited. That Mr. Saleeby understands the modern doctrine of heredity is amply proved by his discussion of it in a previous work (Parenthood and Race Culture). Understanding it, he is obviously unjustified in any such loose statement. Similarly in his discussion of alcohol, as "the chief enemy of women," the author cites "the conclusion published in several papers," regarding the injurious effects of alcohol. This conclusion covers two and a half pages. Later in the chapter, he dismisses, with but scant comment, the scholarly bulletins which Professor Karl Pearson has